

Message Text

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TAGS: MPOL, XO, IN, US

SUBJECT: SWARAN SINGH SPEECH AT HIMGIRI CHRISTENING

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM BOMBAY NOV 27 REPEATED:

QUOTE

BOMBAY 2791

REF: NEW DELHI 15808

HERE IS QUOTED BELOW THE TEXT OF SWARAN SINGH'S SPEECH,
MADE AVAILABLE TO US BY THE PRO OF MAGAZON DOCK LIMITED.

QUOTE

IT IS A MATTER OF GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE WITH
YOU ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF COMMISSIONING OF A
SOPHISTICATED WARSHIP FOR THE INDIAN NAVY. THIS OCCASION
IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT LANDMARK IN THE ANNALS OF THE INDIAN
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NAVY AS WELL AS THE COUNTRY'S DEFENCE PRODUCTION EFFORTS.

THE FIRST INDIAN BUILT LEANDER CLASS FRIGATE, I.N.S. NILGIRI WAS LAUNCHED BY OUR PRIME MINISTER ON 23RD OCTOBER 1968. I WAS PRESENT ON THAT OCCASION AND I HAD EXPRESSED FULL CONFIDENCE THAT MAZAGON DOCK LIMITED WOULD ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE FRIGATE PROJECT. NILGIRI JOINED THE INDIAN NAVY ON 3RD JUNE 1972. TODAY ANOTHER FRIGATE IS BEING ADDED TO THE ARSENAL OF THE INDIAN NAVY. I AM VERY HAPPY TO SEE THAT MAZAGON DOCK LIMITED HAVE RISEN TO THE OCCASION AND HAVE MASTERED THE ART OF BUILDING SUCH SOPHISTICATED WARSHIPS. BUILDING A WARSHIP IS A GREAT CHALLENGE. THIS CHALLENGE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY MET. WARSHIP PRODUCTION WITH INDIGENOUS MATERIALS AND TALENT HAS BROUGHT CONSIDERABLE APPRECIATION AND HONOR TO OUR NATION. CREDIT FOR THIS ACHIEVEMENT GOES TO THE OFFICERS, STAFF AND WORKMEN OF MAZAGON DOCK LIMITED AND I CONGRATULATE THEM. I HAVE EVERY HOPE THAT THEY WILL MAINTAIN AND EVEN IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENCE EFFORTS OF THE COUNTRY WILL GO ON INCREASING STEADILY.

WE ARE A NATION WORKING FOR PEACE ALL-ROUND. WE HAVE NO TERRITORIAL AMBITION, BUT WE ARE A DETERMINED PEOPLE SO FAR AS PRESERVING OUR INTEGRITY AND FREEDOM ARE CONCERNED. WE WILL NOT HESITATE EVEN TO SACRIFICE OUR LIVES WHEN OUR HONOUR, OUR INDEPENDENCE AND OUR WAY OF LIFE ARE THREATENED. THE INDIAN OCEAN HAS NOW BECOME A SUBJECT OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND PRESSURE. IT IS THE THIRD LARGEST OCEAN. MANY RAW MATERIALS AND STRATEGIC ITEMS ARE SUPPLIED BY THE LITTORAL STATES. THIS IS ONE OF THE THE REASONS FOR THE MILITARY IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE RACE FOR ITS MASTERY AND DOMINANCE. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR POLICY OF TOTAL OPPOSITION TO ANY MILITARY PRESENCE OR ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. OUR STAND ON KEEPING THE INDIAN OCEAN A REGION OF PEACE IS QUITE UNEQUIVOCAL. ANY MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BY OUTSIDE POWERS IS BOUND TO CREATE INSTABILITY AND GENERATE TENSIONS IN THIS AREA. IT WOULD ALSO LEAD TO AN ARMS RACE AMONG LITTORAL COUNTRIES THREATENING THEIR LARGER INTERESTS. WE ARE THEREFORE

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STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY MILITARY BASES AND MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BY OUTSIDE POWERS AND WE STRONGLY URGE THE POWERS CONCERNED TO DESIST FROM SUCH ACTIVITIES. WE ARE HAPPY THAT THE CONCEPT OF INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE IS GAINING SUPPORT FROM MANY NON-LITTORAL AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ALSO.

INDIAN SHIPPING HAS GROWN FROM 192,500 GROSS REGISTERED

TONNAGE AT THE TIME OF INDEPENDENCE TO NEARLY 3 MILLION GRT. THE TARGET FOR THE 5TH FIVE YEAR PLAN IS 8.8 MILLION TONS. THIS ONLY INDICATES THE RATE OF GROWTH OF OUR SHIPPING AND THE SCOPE OF ITS FURTHER EXPANSION. TO KEEP THESE SHIPS PLYING AND TO ENSURE FREE FLOW OF OUR EXPORT AND IMPORT TRADE, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP OUR SEA LANES OPEN AND PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR MERCHANT SHIPS. COMMITMENTS OF THE INDIAN NAVY ON THIS ACCOUNT ARE WIDESPREAD. THEY STRETCH FROM THE ANDAMANS AND NICOBAR ISLANDS IN THE EAST TO THE LACCADIVES AND THE KUTCH COAST IN THE WEST. THESE RESPONSIBILITIES NEED TO BE MATCHED BY ADEQUATE RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES. THIS IS APART FROM THE TASK OF DEFENDING INDIA'S LONG COAST LINE OF 3,500 MILES WHICH ITSELF POSES DIFFICULT CHALLENGE TO THE GUARDIANS OF OUR SEAS.

PERFORMANCE OF THE INDIAN NAVY DURING THE YEAR 1971 WAR IS WELL-KNOWN TO US AND NEEDS NO REPETITION. MAN TO MAN, OUR NAVAL OFFICERS AND SAILORS HAVE FEW EQUALS ANYWHERE. BUT A NAVY NEEDS MODERN WARSHIPS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AS MUCH AS TRAINED AND SKILLED PERSONNEL. CONTINUED EFFICIENCY OF THE NAVY IN THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTIES IS DEPENDENT ON THE MEANS AVAILABLE TO THEM TO UNDERTAKE THE TASK. THE MODERN TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE, HAVE BEEN RAPID AND COMPLICATED. IN THE MODERN AGE IT IS THE ENDEAVOUR OF EVERY NATION TO ENSURE THAT WITH THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE THE ARMED FORCES ARE SUPPLIED WITH THE LATEST EQUIPMENT POSSIBLE. THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOPHISTICATED WARSHIPS SUCH AS HIMGIRI WILL ENSURE THAT OUR NAVY IS SUPPLIED WITH THE BEST WARSHIPS AND EQUIPMENT WITH WHICH IT CAN DISCHARGE WITH CONFIDENCE THE ROLE ASSIGNED TO IT.

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NO NATION TODAY CAN TAKE ITS FREEDOM FOR GRANTED. ADEQUATE PREPAREDNESS FOR DEFENCE IS THE BEST GUARANTEE AGAINST VIOLATION OF OUR FRONTIERS BY POTENTIAL ENEMIES. IN A WORLD OF CHANGING PATTERN OF RELATIONSHIP THERE IS NEED TO BE AS SELF-RELIANT AS POSSIBLE IN THE MATTER OF DEFENCE. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO RELY TOO MUCH ON SUPPLIES FROM ABROAD. IT IS THEREFORE A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION THAT WE HAVE BEEN MAKING STEADY PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF OUR ARMED FORCES. IT IS THE AIM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION TO ENSURE THAT THE BEST AND THE MOST MODERN DEFENCE EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL PERFORM EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY UNDER ALL FORMS OF ADVERSE CONDITION IS PRODUCED TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

IN SHIPBUILDING NUMEROUS ITEMS HAVE TO BE MANUFACTURED BY OTHER INDUSTRIAL UNITS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR. CONSEQUENTLY ITS PROGRESS IS DIRECTLY DEPENDENT UPON AVAILABILITY OF STRONG INDUSTRIAL INFRA-STRUCTURE. AT THE SAME TIME GROWTH IN SHIP-BUILDING ACTIVITY GIVES DIRECT IMPETUS TO THE GROWTH OF THS INFRA-STRUCTURE WHICH HAS AN IMPORTANT SPIN OFF EFFECT FOR THE CIVIL SECTOR. THIS HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT LESSON DERIVED FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRIGATE PROJECT. THE CONSTRUCTION OF FRIGATES HAS HELPED NOT ONLY MDL IN SETTING UP NEW FACILITIES AND IN ACQUIRING NEW SKILLS, BUT HAS ALSO ENABLED ESTABLISHMENT OF NUMEROUS UNITS--BIG AND SMALL--BOTH IN THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHICH SUPPLY MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, COMPONENTS AND SUB-ASSEMBLIES REQUIRED FOR THESE SHIPS. I SAY THIS BECAUSE I WOULD LIKE EVERYBODY TO APPRECIATE THAT DEFENCE PRODUCTION EFFORT HAS ENORMOUS POTENTIAL FOR GENERATING SKILLS AND DIRECT AS WELL AS INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT.

SHRI MIRDHA AND ADMIRAL KURUVILA HAVE MENTIONED ABOUT THE EXPANSION PLANS OF MAZAGON DOCK TO ENABLE THEM TO UNDERTAKE FABRICATION OF OIL DRILLING PLATFORMS. OIL SUPPLY IS A MAJOR FACTOR TODAY IN THE ECONOMIC WELL BEING AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF A COUNTRY. THERE HAS BEEN AN UNPRECEDENTED RISE IN OIL PRICES DURING THE LAST ONE YEAR. THIS HAS CAUSED A DRAIN ON OUR FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESOURCE. IT HAS ADVERSELY UNCLASSIFIED

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EFFECTED OUR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. THUS THERE IS UNQUESTIONABLE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ALL EFFORTS TOWARDS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL POSSIBLE OIL RESOURCES WE HAVE. MAZAGON DOCK'S EFFORTS IN CONSTRUCTION OF INDIGENOUS OIL RIGS WILL BE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMY AND I WISH THEM EVERY SUCCESS IN THIS VENTURE.

IT IS INDEED CREDITABLE THAT MAZAGON DOCK HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN EXECUTING THE FRIGATE PROJECT SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE EXTENSION OF THEIR YARD FACILITIES, CONSTRUCTION OF OTHER SHIPS FOR THE INDIAN NAVY AS WELL AS FOR OUR MERCHANT FLEET AND SHIP REPAIRS. UNQUOTE SIGNED MCCASKILL UNQUOTEMOYNIHAN

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